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**A sharp analysis of  
the many cultures,  
religions and political  
systems of the 'Global  
Indian Ocean', the world's  
most unpredictable  
macro-region.**

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**HARRY VERHOEVEN  
& ANATOL LIEVEN (eds)**

## Beyond Liberal Order

### States, Societies and Markets in the Global Indian Ocean

What does liberal order actually amount to outside the West, where it has been most institutionalised? Contrary to the Atlantic or Pacific, liberal hegemony is thin in the Indian Ocean World; there are no equivalents of NATO, the EU or the US–Japan defence relationship.

Yet what this book calls the 'Global Indian Ocean' was the beating heart of earlier epochs of globalisation, where experiments in international order, market integration & cosmopolitanisms were pioneered. Moreover, it is in this macro-region that today's challenges will face their defining hour: climate change, pandemics, & the geopolitical contest pitting China and Pakistan against the USA & India. The Global Indian Ocean states represent the greatest range of political systems and ideologies in any region, from Hindu-nationalist India & nascent democracy in Indonesia & South Africa, to the Gulf's mixture of tribal monarchy and high modernism.

These essays by leading scholars examine key aspects of political order, and their roots in the colonial and pre-colonial past, through the lenses of state-building, nationalism, international security, religious identity and economic development. The emergent lessons are of great importance for the world, as the 'global' liberal order fades and new alternatives struggle to be born.

**Harry Verhoeven** is a senior advisor at the European Institute of Peace, and the founder and Convenor of the Oxford University China–Africa Network. He holds a DPhil from Oxford.

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